<u>Remarks</u>

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2005. A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee. No fee is due for the addition of new claims

I.   Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2005, Claims 1, 4-11 and 14-28 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 9-10 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14-18 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Notani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,192, hereinafter Notani).

II.   Summary of Applicant's Amendment

The present Response amends Claims 1 and 11; cancels Claims 9, 10 and 19-28; and adds new Claims 29-40, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14-18 and 29-40. Reconsideration of the Application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III.   Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action mailed August 24, 2005, Claims 9-10 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claims 9-10 and 19-20 have been canceled by the present Response, rendering moot the rejection of these claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

IV.   Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action mailed August 24, 2005, Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14-18 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Notani (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,192).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the current Response to more clearly define the embodiment therein. As amended, Claim 1 defines:

1.   (Currently Amended) A workflow integration system that allows for sharing of workflow information among a plurality of collaboration participants, comprising:
        a plurality of collaboration participants;
        a workflow server on each collaboration participant, and having stored thereon a participant workflow that specifies process information for a project local to that collaboration participant, wherein a project is a group of related tasks; and
        a collaboration server having stored thereon an enterprise workflow that defines combined process information for the participant workflows, and that includes tasks to be executed across the plurality of collaboration participants to achieve a combined result, said collaboration server further comprising
                a conversation initiation logic that initiates a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol, and
                an integration logic that allows one of said participant workflows to interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server and in accordance with the enterprise workflow.

Claim 1, as currently amended, defines that the enterprise workflow defines process information for the participant workflows, and includes tasks to be executed across the plurality of participants to achieve a combined result. The collaboration server comprises a conversation initiation logic that initiates a conversation among the collaboration participants, according to an extensible protocol. The extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the protocol. An integration logic allows one workflow to interact with and affect another workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants

via the conversation. Applicant respectfully submits that these features are not disclosed by the cited references.

The advantages of the embodiment currently defined by Claim 1 include that the system allows for conversation between workflows, that are otherwise operating independently on individual participant machines. As the local workflows operate on each participant, the participant can use an extensible protocol to send messages to other participants, including *specifying routing information in the header*. This allows one workflow *to interact with and affect* another workflow on another participant. This allows multiple simultaneous conversations between the participants to take place via the collaboration server. Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, since the collaboration server acts as an intermediary, neither participant needs to be aware of which business protocol the other participant uses. The result is that a participant can use any business protocol to communicate with another participant, as long as the system includes an appropriate business protocol handler.

Notani discloses a method of synchronizing one or more workflows using one or more synchronization-join activities that include synchronization logic. As disclosed therein, the steps comprise initializing the execution of a plurality of workflows; providing synchronization logic in at least one of the plurality of workflows; pausing the execution of a workflow until the synchronization logic is complete; and continuing the execution of the plurality of workflows. (Column 2, Lines 37-43). A global collaboration workspace provides the primary entity used to share data/objects between the various entities in the collaboration. In general, objects can be placed into the global collaboration workspace by one entity and retrieved by another entity. Retrieval can be achieved either by querying or by subscription. In this way, the global collaboration workspace combines the attributes of a database as well as a message bus. (Column 5, Lines 44-56).

Applicant respectfully submits that, as described above, Notani appears to disclose a system in which two or more workflows are synchronized by pausing the execution of a workflow until the synchronization logic is complete, synchronizing the workflows, and then continuing the execution of the plurality of workflows. However, this synchronization technique is different from the embodiment of Claim 1, as presently amended, in which a participant can participate in a

conversation with other participants, and can use an extensible protocol to send messages to other participants *and to interact with and affect another workflow on that participant.*

Furthermore, as described above, Notani appears to disclose that the global collaboration workspace acts as a database, in allowing a first entity to place objects into the global collaboration workspace, which can then be retrieved by a second entity. The retrieval can be achieved either by querying or by subscription. This suggests that, in Notani, information is communicated between a first entity and a second entity by the second entity deliberately retrieving or subscribing to that information. However, as defined by Claim 1, the extensible protocol allows the sending collaboration participant *to specify a routing information in a header of the message.*

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as currently amended, is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Notani, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 11

The comments provided above with respect to Claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Claim 11 has been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiment therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 11, as amended, is likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8 and 14-18

Claims 4-8 and 14-18 are not addressed separately but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable in view of the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4-8 and 14-18 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

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Claims 21-28

Claims 21-28 have been canceled by the current Response, rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

V.   Additional Amendments

Claims 29-40 have been newly added by the present Response. Applicant respectfully requests that new Claims 29-40 be included in the Application and considered therewith.

VI.   Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the Claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including January 24, 2006.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _January 24, 2006_   By: _____

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